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The Rhodesian Project

When Rhodesia comes under majority rule, will its new leaders tilt toward Russia, China, or the United States?

If Pittsburgh's Carnegie-Mellon University has any say about it, the tilt will be strongly pro-United States: the university is now training 25 Rhodesians—19 "Africans," 3 "Europeans," 2 "Asians," and 1 "colored"—to hold down top posts in the government expected to replace Ian Smith's white-supremacist regime.

Officially, the Carnegie-Mellon project is aimed simply at preparing Rhodesia for "orderly transition" to majority rule. University dean Toby Davis says, "We're all aware of what has happened in other African countries when the majority took over without the qualified, educated people needed to run a government. We want to help Rhodesia avoid that kind of situation, for the sake of our country and our world."

What is the Smith regime's attitude toward what some might consider an outside effort to hasten its demise? "Most favorable," replies Dean Davis. "I haven't talked to Premier Ian Smith himself, but several Cabinet officers and civil service commissioners expressed enthusiasm. Eight of our twenty-five students already work for the commission and were nominated by it for the program." The dean adds that the racial mixture of the student group, while not deliberately created, "comes close to the population mix as a whole."

The Rhodesian project was suggested and is partially funded by Allegheny Ludlum, a steel company that once did business in Rhodesia but ran afoul of the U.S. government's Rhodesian sanctions. Further help is expected from various American corporations and foundations.

The dean declines to speculate on Allegheny Ludlum's motives, but he admits to being a bit nervous about raising the necessary \$500,000. Is there any CIA money in the picture? "I guarantee not," says Dean Davis. "I wish some were available."